assistance. Loan agreement for the Kerala Water Supply Project having both rural and urban components was signed on 25.2.97 for Ten 11,997 million. the project is yet to take off and so far no disbursement has been made under the project.

No such project with assistance from OECF, Japan is under implementation in Orissa.

Problems of settlers at Tadepalligudem Aerodrome in Andhra Pradesh

*316. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a notice from the National Human Rights Commission on the issue of settlers at Tadepalligudem Aerodrome in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the petition;

(c) the name of the petitioner;

(d) whether any effort has been made to contact the petitioner;

(e) whether any demand has been made for a visit of the concerned officials to the site; and

(f) the steps proposed to reconcile the demands of the petitioner and the rules of land allotment to settlers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The land was handed over to the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 3.8.1987. In the petition of Dr. P. Pulla Rao received through National Human Rights Commission, the case of about 20,000 settlers/displaced people living on the defence land of Tadepalligudem aerodrome has been pleaded. It has been stated in the petition that these people are living on this land for the last 50 years without legal rights and that they are ready to pay for their rights. The petitioner in his representations has also made a request for the visit of the concerned official to the site.

(f) The report has been submitted by Government on the facts of the case to the National Human Rights Commission. The directives of the Commision are awaited. Also, as the custodial responsibility of the said land vests with the State Government therefore, the matter has also been taken up with the State Government. Further, it may be stated that the surplus land is to be disposed of as per the laid down procedure. The order of priority in which the surplus land is to be offered is as under:—

(i) Other Ministries of the Central Government.

(ii) State Government.

(iii) Local Bodies.

(iv) Educational and charitable institutions.

(v) Ex-servicemen.

Censure of Bihar Government by Patna High Court

*317. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Patna High Court has censured the Bihar Government for defying the Court's directives and has observed that the same amounted to Constitutional break-down, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 17th October, 1998;

(b) if so, the number of orders passed by the Patna High Court during the last three years and how many of them were defied by the State Government; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to available information, the number of cases disposed of by the Patna High Court during the last three years was as under:—

Year	Number of cases disposed of
1996	78878
1997	93306
1998	102382

Available information also indicates that 3,396 contempt cases were pending against the State Government of Bihar in the Patna High Court as on 30.9.1998.